

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0049] as follows:

[0049] Figures 5I-5V ~~5A-5W~~ illustrate various configuration of implantable conduits.

Please amend paragraph [0121] as follows:

[0121] Figure 5H illustrates an example of a conduit 524 having an asymmetrical profile. The conduit 524 may have a flange 526 at either or both ends of the body 528. Although not shown, the flange 526 may have a cone-like profile to facilitate placement within an airway. As illustrated in figure 5I ~~figure 5J~~, the asymmetrical profile of the conduit 524 assists in preventing obstruction of the airway.

Please amend paragraph [0122] as follows:

[0122] Figure 5J ~~Figure 5K~~ illustrate a variation of the conduit 530 having a self-cleaning mechanism. In this example, the self cleaning mechanism is a floating ball bearing 532. The ends of the conduit 530 have a reduced diameter 534 which prevents the bearing 532 from escaping. As gas passes through the conduit 530, the bearing 532 moves about the conduit 530 clearing it of debris. The shape of the bearing 532 and the size and shape of the reduced diameter 534 may be varied to optimize the self-cleaning effect of the device.

Please amend paragraph [0123] as follows:

[0123] Figure 5K and 5L ~~Figure 5L and 5M~~ illustrate another variations of a self-expanding conduit 536. In this example, as shown in figure 5K ~~figure 5L~~, the conduit 536 may be constructed from a flat material 538 having a spring or springs 540. As shown in figure 5L ~~figure 5M~~, the conduit 536 is formed by rolling the assembly. The spring 540 provides an expanding force against the material 538. The conduit 536 may also be constructed so that the flat material 538 is resilient thus eliminating the need for springs 540.

Please amend paragraph [0124] as follows:

[0124] Figure 5M~~Figure 5N~~ illustrates another variation of an expandable conduit 542 constructed from a braided material. The conduit 542 may be constructed so that the diameter is dependent upon the length of the device 542. For example, the diameter of the device 542 may decrease as the length is stretched, and the diameter may increase as the length of the device 542 is compressed. Such a construction being similar to a 'finger cuff' toy.

Please amend paragraph [0125] as follows:

[0125] Figures 5N-5P~~Figures 5O-5Q~~ illustrate another variation of a grommet-type conduit. Figure 5N~~Figure 5O~~ illustrates a conduit 544 having expandable ends 546. In one variation the ends 546 of the device 544 may flare outwards as illustrated in figure 5Q ~~figure 5P~~. Figure 5N~~Figure 5O~~ illustrates another variation of the device 544 in which the ends 546 compress in length to expand in diameter.

Please amend paragraph [0126] as follows:

[0126] Figures 5Q and 5R~~Figures 5R and 5S~~ illustrate variations of a conduit having an anchor. In figure 5Q~~figure 5R~~, the conduit 548 has an anchor 550 at a distal end of a hollow plug 540. The anchor 550 may be tapered to facilitate entry into the airway 100 wall or may have another design as required. The anchor 550 also contains ventilation openings 552 552 to facilitate gas exchange through the device. Figure 5R~~Figure 5S~~ illustrates another variation of the device.

Please amend paragraph [0127] as follows:

[0127] Figure 5S~~Figure 5T~~ illustrates a variation of a conduit 561 having flanges 563 at either end to assist in placement of the conduit within an airway wall (not shown). The ends of the conduit 565 may be tapered to ease placement through a collateral channel. The conduit has an opening 565 to facilitate passage of air. To simplify

construction, the conduit **561** may be constructed from a biocompatible material, such as stainless steel, or plastic.

Please amend paragraph [0128] as follows:

[0128] Figure 5T~~Figure 5U~~ illustrates a variation of the invention having multiple openings for gas flow. The conduit **560** has a first hollow end **564** which can extend through a wall of the airway **100** and a second hollow end **566** which can remain parallel to the airway **100**. This example also includes an opening **562** which allows gas to flow through the airway **100**.

Please amend paragraph [0129] as follows:

[0129] Figure 5U~~Figure 5V~~ illustrates a variation of the device having a one-way valve **570**. The valve **570** allows the conduit **568** to permit exhaust of the air sac but prevents the conduit **568** from serving as another entrance of gas to the air-sac. The valve **570** may be placed at ends of the conduit or within a lumen of the conduit. The valve **570** may also be used as bacterial in-flow protection for the lungs.

Please amend paragraph [0130] as follows:

[0130] Figure 5V~~Figure 5W~~ illustrates another variation of a conduit **572**. In this variation, the conduit **572** may be a sponge material, or constructed of an open cell material **574**, which allows air flow through the material. Or, the conduit **572** may have lumens **576** which allow flow through the conduit **572**. To assist the conduit **572** in remaining within a channel, the conduit material may be selected such that it expands as it absorbs moisture. Also, the sponge material/open cell material may be bio-absorbable to allow for temporary placement of the conduit **572**.